

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Alexander SCHNELL *et al.*

Application No.: 10/597,010

Filing Date: 20 April 2007

For: Braze Alloy and Use of a Braze Alloy

Art Unit: 1793

Examiner: Mekhlin, Eli S.

Attorney Ref. No.: 003-239

Confirmation No. 4697

DECLARATION OF ALEXANDER SCHNELL UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.132

Mail Stop AF

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

1. I, Alexander Schnell, am a co-inventor of subject matter described and claimed in U.S. Patent Application Number 10/597,010 ("this application").
2. I am also a co-inventor of subject matter described and claimed in U.S. Patent No. 6,629,368, which was granted from U.S. Application Number 10/140,062. U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2003/0066177 ("177 publication") was published from U.S. Application Number 10/140,062.
3. I completed a Study of Materials Science at the University of Leoben, Austria in 1998, and completed my Doctoral Thesis at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland in 2004. My doctoral thesis, A Study of the Diffusion Brazing Process applied to the Single Crystal Superalloy CMSX-4, presented and republished at A. Schnell, A. Stankowski, E. deMarcos: ASME Turbo Expo 2006, May 8-11, 2006, Barcelona Spain, Paper No. GT2006-90492, was awarded Best Paper from the ASME Manufacturing Materials & Metallurgy Committee. I am a co-author on 10 published papers, and am a co-inventor on eight U.S. and three European patents. I am currently Manager, GT part Reconditioning Engineering, for Alstom Power Service Arabia (FZE), Dubai, UAE.
4. I have read and understand this application, including the claims.
5. I have read and understand the '177 publication.

6. The '177 *publication* does not literally describe a single brazing alloy that includes, in wt.-%:

10-15% Cr,
4.5-6% Al,
8-12% Co,
0-4% W,
2.5-5% Ta,
2.0-3.5% B,
with $\text{Cr} + \text{Al} > 15\%$,
 $\text{Cr}/\text{Al} \leq 3$, and
 $\text{Al} + \text{Ta} > 7.5\%$,
remainder Nickel and impurities.

The '177 *publication* does not literally describe any ranges of weight percentages of brazing alloys, but instead describes eight individual brazing alloys.

7. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Date: 21/01/2010



Alexander Schnell